

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

### 1. A position detection apparatus comprising:

an absolute track composed of a string of a number of micro-sized areas each indicated by a code of [0] and a number of micro-sized areas each indicated by a code of [1], in accordance with a maximum length sequence generated by a degree- $n$  primitive polynomial,  $n$  being a natural number not less than 2, said micro-sized areas each indicated by a code of [1] differing in physical properties from said micro-sized areas each indicated by a code of [0]; and

a detection unit for said absolute track movable relative to said absolute track, said detection unit including  $n$  heads for said absolute track, arrayed facing said absolute track, for detecting the physical properties of said absolute track; wherein

said  $n$  heads for said absolute track are arrayed under a condition satisfying the equations 1 and 2 if  $n$  is an even number and under a condition satisfying the equations 1 and 3 if  $n$  is an odd number:

$$\lambda_1 = m\lambda, m \text{ being an integer not less than } 2 \quad \dots(1)$$

$$\lambda_1 \neq k(2^{n/2} + 1)\lambda, k \text{ being a natural number} \quad \dots(2)$$

$$\lambda_1 \neq k(2^n + 1)\lambda \quad \dots(3)$$

where  $\lambda$  is a pitch of said micro-sized areas and  $\lambda_1$  is the separation between

neighboring ones of said n heads for said absolute track.

2. The position detection apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the length  $L_t$  of said absolute track satisfies the equation 4:

$$L_t \geq (2^n - 1)\lambda + (n - 1)\lambda_1$$

...(4).

3. The position detection apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

an incremental track having physical properties thereof changed at a constant period; and

a detection unit for said incremental track, including a head for said incremental track, arranged facing said incremental track, for detecting physical properties of said incremental track.